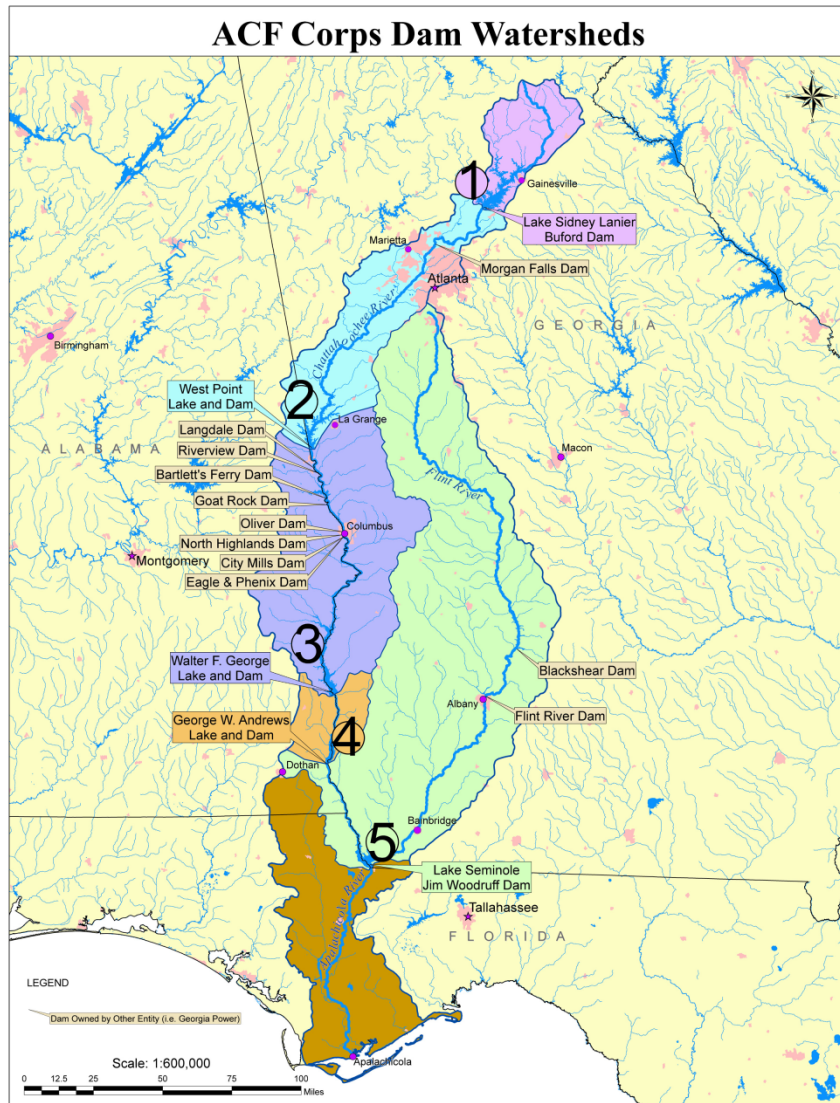


Developing the Southeast Regional Drought Early Warning System (RDEWS)

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ACF Basin - Background



- 5 Corps-operated dams
- 11 Dams owned and operated by power companies
- Buford Dam constructed for
 - Flood control, hydropower, navigation
- At least 20 years of litigation regarding allocation of water in the basin
 - Multi-District Litigation
 - July 2009 Magnuson Ruling
 - The Corps of Engineers should have obtained congressional approval before allowing Atlanta to withdraw water from Lake Lanier for the Metro Atlanta water supply
 - The parties have 3 years from this ruling to obtain Congressional approval to reallocate the water or agree to some other resolution
 - In the absence of a resolution, Buford Dam operations will revert to the baseline operations of the mid-70s
 - July 2010 Magnuson dismissed Florida's argument to use the Endangered Species Act to dictate water flow into the Apalachicola
 - This just in...The Corps denied Georgia's request to include water usage in the water control manual for Buford Dam

Commonalities among the three sub-basins

- *Education and Communication*
 - People across the basin agree that education and communication regarding drought needs improvement
 - General public, lawmakers, politicians
 - Drought information needs to come from a trusted source in an easy-to-understand way
- *Improved interactions with the Corps*
 - Input into water control manual
 - Data sharing
 - Communication
- *Data*
 - Improved dissemination and QC/QA

Commonalities among the three sub-basins

- *ACF Basin webinars and Climate Outlooks*
 - What are the current conditions?
 - What are the projections?
 - What are the current and anticipated impacts?
- *Drought Index*
 - Can a basin-wide drought index be established?
- *Resolve discrepancies regarding groundwater*
 - How much groundwater is withdrawn?
 - How frequently should withdrawals be recorded?
 - Improved modeling
- *Presentation of Information*
 - Basin-scale graphics available from one web site
 - Historical context

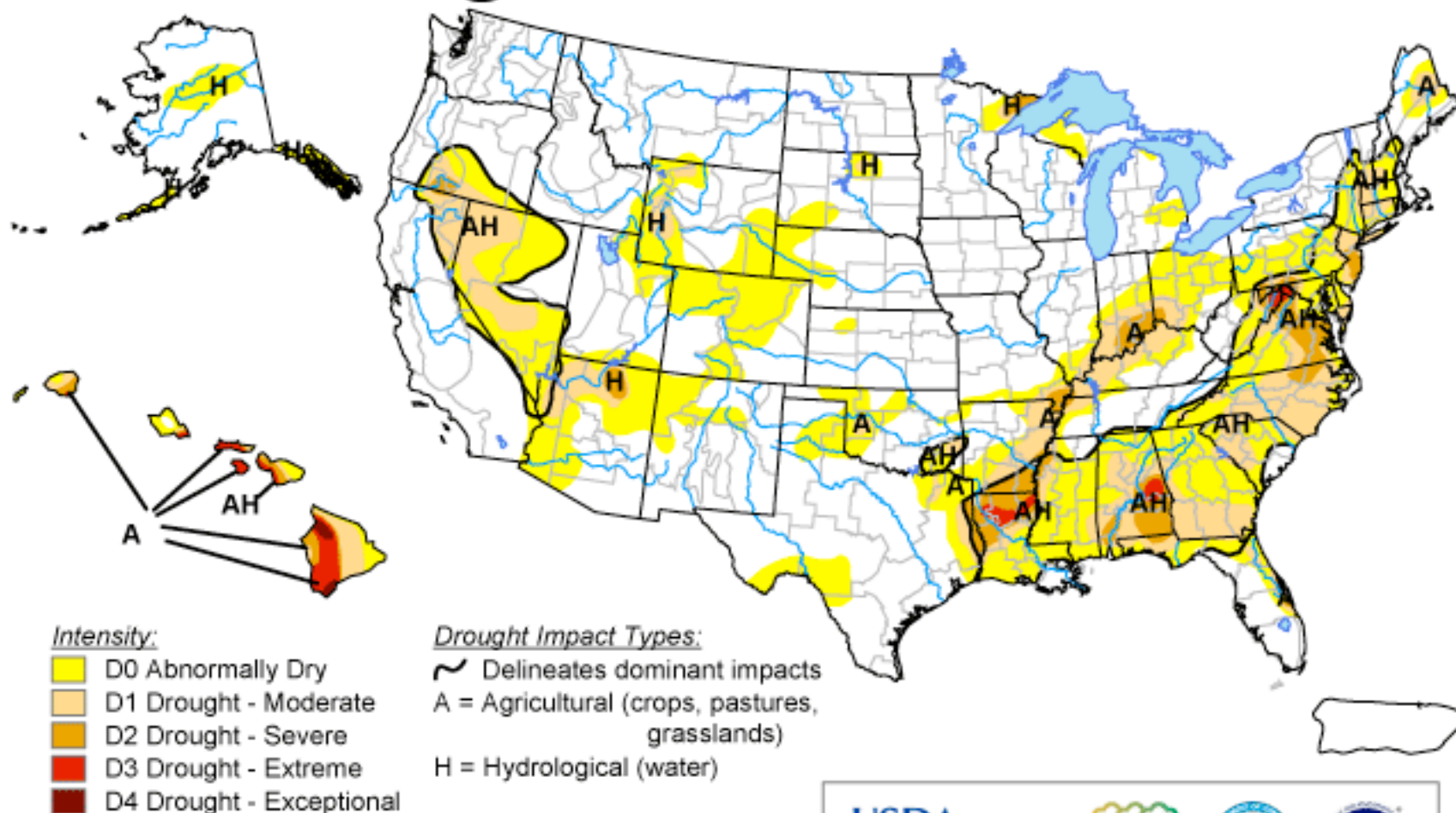
Future Plans

- Oct/Nov Full Basin Meeting
 - Reconcile information from the three sub-basins
 - Agree on 3-4 specific steps on developing a RDEWS in the ACF
- ACF-Climate Outlook Forum
 - Seasonal climate assessment
 - Potential implications of outlook
 - Stakeholder communication and capacity building
 - Evaluation: were we successful

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 21, 2010

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



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